

CLAIMS

1. A communications device, comprising:
a first transceiver for communicating over a first
communication network;

5 a second transceiver for communicating with a
remote unit;

means for detecting signal strengths of
potentially interfering signals; and

10 means for providing an alert signal if the
detected signal strengths exceed a predetermined
threshold.

2. A communications device as claimed in claim
1, further comprising means for detecting signal
strengths of signals received from the remote unit in
15 the first transceiver.

3. A communications device as claimed in claim
1, further comprising means for detecting signal
strengths of signals received from the remote unit in
the second transceiver.

20 4. A communications device as claimed in claim
1, further comprising means for detecting signal
strengths of noise signals, caused by transmissions
received from the remote unit, in the second
transceiver.

25 5. A communications device as claimed in claim
4, further comprising means for identifying times at
which transmissions are being received from the remote
unit, and means for identifying times at which the
detected signal strengths of noise signals in the
30 second transceiver exceed a specified level, and means
for comparing the identified times.

35 6. A communications device as claimed in claim
4, further comprising means for identifying times at
which transmissions are being received from the remote
unit on one or more specified frequencies, and means
for identifying times at which the detected signal

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strengths of noise signals in the second transceiver exceed a specified level, and means for comparing the identified times.

5 7. A communications device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising means for detecting in the second transceiver a code modulated onto transmissions from the remote unit.

10 8. A communications device as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising means for generating the alerting signal and transmitting it to the remote unit.

9. A communications device as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising an infrared transceiver, for communicating with the remote unit when an alert signal is generated.

15 10. A communications system, comprising a communications device and a remote unit, the communications device comprising:

a first transceiver for communicating over a first communication network;

20 a second transceiver for communicating with the remote unit;

means for detecting signal strengths of potentially interfering signals; and

25 means for providing an alert signal if the detected signal strengths exceed a predetermined threshold,

and the remote unit comprising a third transceiver for communicating with the communications device.

30 11. A communications system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the communications device comprises means for transmitting the alert signal to the remote unit.

35 12. A communications system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the remote unit comprises means for storing an audible message and means for playing back the stored audible message in response to a received alert signal.

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13. A communications system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the remote unit comprises means for displaying a visual message in response to a received alert signal.

5 14. A communications system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the remote unit comprises means for receiving an alert signal, and for ceasing further radio transmissions to the communications device in response thereto.

10 15. A communications system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the communications device and the remote unit each comprise an infrared transceiver, and further comprising means for switching further transmissions to the infrared transceivers in response to an alert
15 signal.